



Apprentice Scholars III

Critical Thinking Thematic Unit

An excellent medium for fostering critical thinking is one that engenders controversy. Controversy inevitability arises when change takes place. Therefore, the theme selected for the development of critical thinking skills is that of revolution and is entitled “*Constructive Destruction.*” Revolution in this unit has been defined very broadly and encompasses any event that brings about fundamental change. Due to this open definition, this unit does not restrict itself to political and/ or bloody revolutions, although these were also included.



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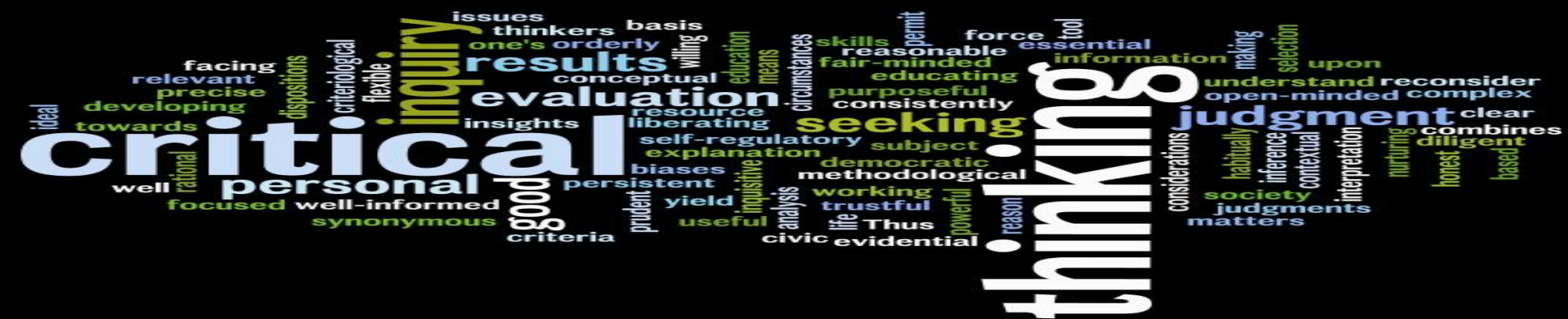
Critical Thinking Thematic Unit

This thematic unit has a paradoxical title. It calls for a positive attitude toward events which will break down an old order. This unique approach can be applied to revolution within the areas of art, philosophy, industry, communication, politics, and economics.

This thematic unit

Goals for Critical Thinking:

- To develop analysis skills
- To develop synthesis skills
- To develop evaluation skills



Critical Thinking: Analysis

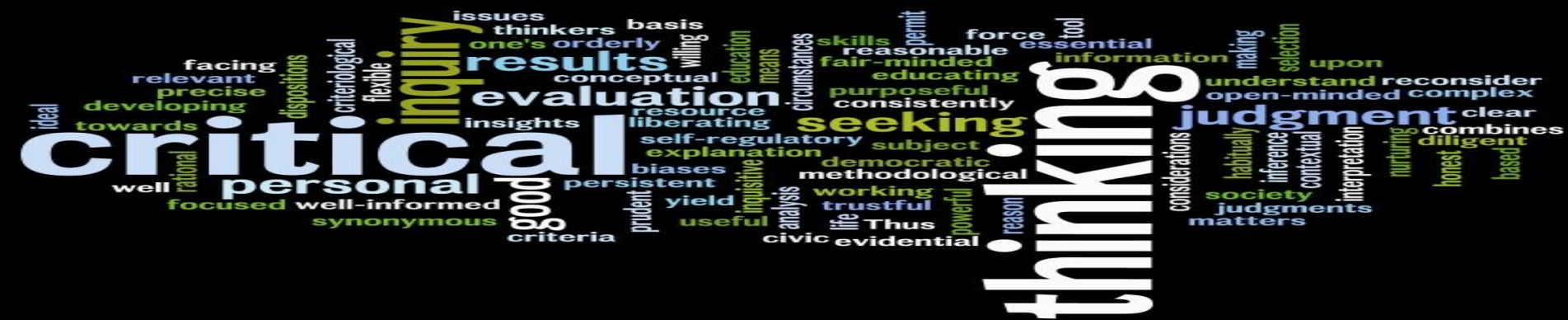
STRATEGY:

Consider the following categories: Industry, Dress, Music, and Communication. Brainstorm the revolutions you are aware of in each of these areas. What aspects are necessary for an event to be considered a revolution?

With your classmates, develop a definition of “Revolution” which can apply to all situations. Compare your definition with those in other sources.



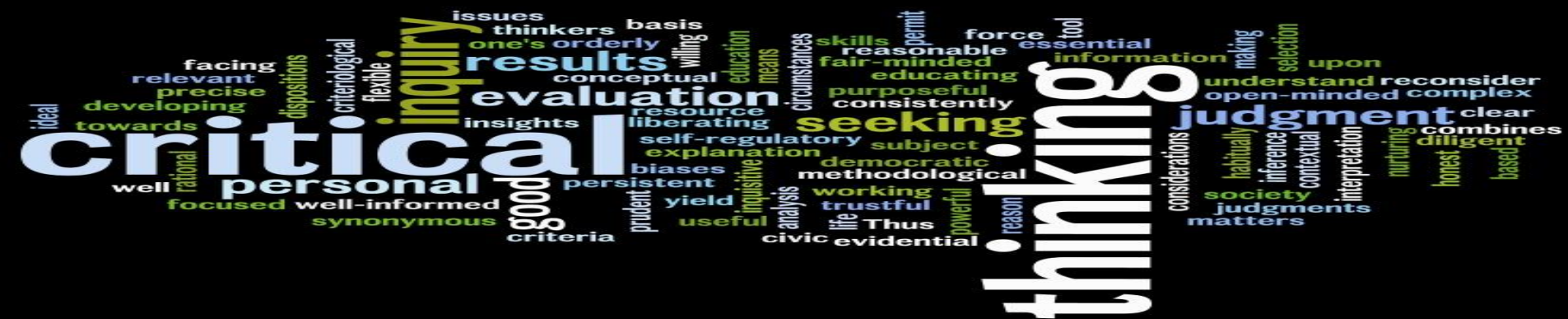
The revolution in communication within the past 30 years has had a dramatic effect on product sales. Choose a common product and do a comparison of television, radio, magazine, and internet advertising. Differentiate between what the consumer observes and what the consumer infers. Provide Examples. Discuss the fine line between cleverness and deception in advertising.



Critical Thinking: Analysis

STRATEGY:

Generate a list of revolutions which have occurred throughout history. Each member of your group (max. of 4) should select an event and make a list of steps through which that revolution went. Make sure the steps are historically documented (use MLA citation when appropriate). As a group develop common categories into which the steps would fit.



Critical Thinking: Analysis

STRATEGY:

After you have read the Equal Rights Amendment, think about and survey the current reasons for and against it. Classify the arguments into political, social, emotional, and economic ones. What conclusions can you draw from all of these arguments? What position would you take and why?



“Society has historically discriminated against women.” Examine the position of women across several cultures and time periods. Be sure to include American culture. Decide whether you are for or against the above statement. Develop support for your idea and share it with your class mates in some unique and unusual way.